



THE JOINT STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C.

19 October 1988

Reply to Zip Code
20318-5000

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021-6399

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

First of all, let me apologize for taking so long to reply to your insightful letter of 9 September. I take a matter of pride in my promptness, but in this case, I have been neglectful of my responsibilities. It was very good hearing from you, and we very much appreciate your sharing your thoughts with us.

I wholeheartedly agree that in a low intensity scenario we must not let an enemy's use of CW go unpunished. In a strategic context we have many options, and the use of overwhelming force may be the best alternative. I think you are in tune with the current national leadership, both military and political, in looking to conventional alternatives prior to a retaliation in kind response during low intensity resolution.

My personal fear is for a terrorist action involving a toxin or a biological agent. We would be partially paralyzed in our effort to verify the deed and, even with thought out alternatives, we would agonize over world opinion regardless of our selected alternative. Counter-terrorism is a difficult problem from the "appropriate response" perspective. With Libyan and other Middle East countries beginning to develop biotechnology capabilities, this is becoming a potential threat.

We have worked an initial action within the Directorate to establish a "relationship" with your sub-committee. I must report that my Director, Vice Admiral Jack Baldwin, has warned us to proceed gently. He is concerned that any hint of a relationship with the Joint Staff/DOD could seriously compromise your independence. He suggests an informal arrangement with face-to-face sessions as needed to exchange ideas, current policy, and other information that may be of use by both your committee and ourselves.

I have not written to Ms. Lynn Rusten, but plan to do so and report the same. Thanks again for the input, it is germane to my effort in developing appropriate strategies for our national decision-makers. Please continue to share your thoughts on this key issue.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank J. Cox".

FRANK J. COX
Lieutenant Colonel, USA
Nuclear and Chemical Division,
J-5

CF: Ms. Lynn Rusten